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TO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE 5740-5741
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 3116-3117
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 7095-7096
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 2371-2372
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 2242-2243
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0926-0927
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 9034-9035
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 5982-5983
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 9000-9001
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3134-3135
INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 2096-2097
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 6418-6419
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 6735-6736
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 9717-9718
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 0285-0286
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE 6345-6346
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE 8032-8033
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE 2249-2250

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SENSITIVE

SIPDIS
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SENSITIVE CAPTION ADDED)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PK](#)
SUBJECT: FRIENDS OF PAKISTAN GROUP TO CONVENE IN NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 26

STATE 00100210 001.2 OF 002

11. (U) This is an action cable. Posts other than USNATO see paragraph 4. USNATO see paragraph 5.

12. (SBU) The US, the UK, and the United Arab Emirates, in consultation with Pakistan, propose to establish a "Friends of Pakistan" group to galvanize international efforts in support of the new civilian government, as it faces a range of critical challenges. The Secretary, UK Foreign Secretary Miliband, and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nayhan are issuing a joint invitation to addressees' host country foreign ministers to an inaugural meeting in New York September 26.

13. (SBU) Given the short time frame, and the fact that many delegations will be leaving over the weekend for the UN General Assembly, action posts are requested to approach host governments' Ministries of Foreign Affairs on Friday, September 19, to deliver the letter in paragraph 6. To the extent possible, please deliver together with British and Emirati counterparts. Posts except for USNATO may draw on paragraph 4 talking points:

14. (SBU) Talking Points

- The U.S., UK and the UAE propose to convene a meeting of a new group - the Friends of Pakistan - in order to galvanize international efforts behind the newly elected government of Pakistan. The purpose would be to send a signal that the Government of Pakistan has wide support as it works to address Pakistan's challenges.

- We wish to be very clear that this will not/not be a donors' meeting to provide relief from Pakistan's critical short-term balance of payment and foreign exchange problems; these must be addressed by swift and credible reform actions by its government. Discussions of specific economic reform actions will be left to other, more appropriate channels.

- The group will consist of a small number of like-minded countries. In addition to the U.S., UK, and the UAE, the following are being invited: Canada, France, Germany, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, and Australia, as well as the EU and the UN. (If asked: Other interested nations, organizations and financial institutions could be invited to subsequent meetings as appropriate.) Pakistan will serve as co-chair of the meeting.

- The inaugural meeting is scheduled to take place in New York at the United Nations General Headquarters on Friday, September 26, at 9:35 a.m.

- We would appreciate learning as soon as possible whether your Foreign Minister will be able to attend.

15. (SBU) FOR USNATO ACTION ONLY: Please deliver the following points to the Secretary General's Private Office:

- Given the urgency of the situation in Pakistan and the opportunity provided by the General Assembly, we would like to move quickly to establish this small group to galvanize international support for Pakistan.

- The initial intent of the "friends" is to focus on Pakistan's broad challenges. If security does emerge as an issue for the "friends," we will press for NATO participation.

- We will keep the Private Office and, as appropriate, the

STATE 00100210 002.2 OF 002

North Atlantic Council informed of the activities of the "friends."

16. (SBU) Begin Text: Dear Foreign Minister (insert appropriate name): Pakistan has recently undergone a successful democratic transition. Consolidating democracy is an imperative and requires assisting Pakistan with its national development agenda.

The new democratically elected Pakistani government faces formidable challenges. The need to address these problems is urgent. The UK, the U.S. and the United Arab Emirates would like to galvanize international support for the Government of Pakistan. One way to achieve this would be to set up a Friends of Pakistan group.

The Group could be co-chaired by the Government of Pakistan and one of its members. Initially, membership would be kept to a small number of like-minded countries, plus the EU and the UN. Other interested nations, organizations and international financial institutions could be invited to subsequent meetings.

The purpose of the Group would be to send a signal that the civilian Government of Pakistan has wide support as it works to address Pakistan's challenges. It might as an early step consider a joint statement with Pakistan of goals and the commitment to work on joint strategies to address challenges of security and comprehensive development, including education, energy shortfalls, and institution-building. The Group, however, is not intended to be a donors' conference.

We have discussed the proposal to form such a Group with President Zardari, who has welcomed the idea and agreed that Pakistan should co-chair it. An inaugural meeting of the Group's Foreign Ministers with President Zardari could be held in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York at the end of September. The inaugural meeting could aim for a joint statement of goals and commitments. As to timing, we would like to propose Friday, 26 September, at 9:35 am, at the UN Headquarters.

We should be grateful if you would let us know whether your country would be willing to participate in the Friends of

Pakistan Group, and if you would be available to attend the proposed meeting in New York next week. Signed, Condoleezza Rice, David Miliband, and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nayhan. End Text of Invitation.
RICE